WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of filtering a signal in a wireless communication system comprising:

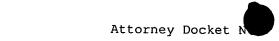
providing a signal to a first filter to generate a filtered output;

comparing the filtered output to a threshold value; and

activating a second filter when the filtered output is within a predetermined range of the threshold value.

- 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing a nearly constant filter length of the first filter.
- 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing demodulator noise with the first filter.
- 4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting a time constant of the second filter based on input energy estimates.
- 5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting a time constant of the second filter based on searcher or over-the-air parameters.
- 6. The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting a dynamic time constant for the second filter.
- 7. The method of Claim 6, further comprising setting the dynamic time constant of the second filter based on input energy estimates.

- 8. The method of Claim 6, further comprising setting the dynamic time constant of the second filter based on searcher or over-the-air parameters.
- 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising bypassing the second filter when the filtered output is beyond the predetermined range of the threshold value.
- 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising setting the threshold value to T_DROP.
- 11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the second filter is a (N-1)/N type filter.
- 12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising providing the output of the second filter to a pilot set maintenance function.
- 13. A mobile station for use in a wireless communication system comprising a first filter which receives a signal and a second filter, wherein an output of the first signal is filtered by the second filter when the output of the first filter is within a range of a threshold value.
- 14. The mobile station of Claim 13, wherein the first filter receives energy values from a demodulator.
- 15. The mobile station of Claim 13, wherein the first filter has a small, nearly constant filter length.
- 16. The mobile station of Claim 14, wherein the first filter removes demodulator noise from the energy values.



- 17. The mobile station of Claim 13, wherein the second filter has a dynamic time constant based on the input energy values.
- The mobile station of Claim 13, wherein the 18. second filter has a dynamic time constant based on searcher or over-the-air parameters.
- The mobile station of Claim 13, wherein the second filter is bypassed if the output of the first filter is outside the range of the threshold value.
- 20. The mobile station of Claim 13, wherein the output of the second filter is provided to a pilot set maintenance function.